

# Deaths

There were 24,489 resident deaths recorded for Kansans in 2006, a decrease of 0.6 percent from the 2005 total of 24,632. ([Table 34](#))

Comanche (19.2), Harper (17.4) and Woodson (17.1) counties had the highest five-year (2002-2006) county crude death rates per 1,000 population. Riley (4.8), Finney (5.0), and Douglas (5.4) counties had the lowest five-year crude death rates per 1,000 population. ([Table 34](#), [Figure 27](#))

Wyandotte (10.2), Cherokee (10.0) and Lane (9.7) counties had the highest five-year (2002-2006) county age-adjusted death rates per 1,000 population. Kiowa (6.0), Riley (6.7), Gove (6.8) and Johnson (6.8) counties had the lowest five-year age-adjusted death rates. ([Table 34](#), [Figure 27](#))

Belleville (24.2), Eureka (22.2), and Anthony (19.3) had the highest five-year city death rates (2002-2006) per 1,000 population. Olathe (4.7), Manhattan (4.8), and Lawrence (4.9) experienced the lowest five-year city death rates. ([Table 35](#))

The Kansas death rate in 2006 was 8.9 deaths per 1,000 population, which was 9.9 percent higher than the estimated U.S. rate of 8.1 deaths per 1,000 population. ([Figure 28](#))

Of all stillbirths in 2006, 87.5 percent were attributed to conditions originating in the perinatal period and 10.9 percent to congenital anomalies. ([Table 36](#))

Examining the components that constitute perinatal period III mortality (see definition in Technical Notes), the numbers of stillbirths and hebdomadal deaths declined 24.1 percent and 23.5 percent respectively from 1987 to 2006. Caution should be used in interpreting these decreases due to the relatively small number of occurrences. In 2006, there were 329 perinatal period III deaths, representing a death rate of 8.0 deaths per 1,000 live births plus stillbirths. This rate has decreased 28.6 percent from the 1987 rate of 11.2. ([Tables 37](#) and [38](#))

A total of 293 infant deaths occurred to Kansas residents in 2006. The statewide infant death rate for 2006 was 7.2 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. For comparison, the 2006 rate (7.2) represents a decrease of 21.7 percent from the rate of 9.2 in 1987. The White Non-Hispanic infant death rate was 6.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006, a decrease of 23.5 percent from the rate of 8.1 in 1987. The Black Non-Hispanic infant death rate in 2006 was 17.5, a decrease of 13.8 percent from the rate of 20.3 in 1987. The Hispanic infant death rate was 6.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2006, a decrease of 53.7 percent from the rate of 13.4 in 1987. ([Figure 29](#), [Tables 39](#) and [40](#))

During the five-year period, 2002-2006, the infant death rate for Kansas was 7.1. Lane County had the highest infant death rate (21.5) during this time period. Of those counties reporting infant deaths, Rice County had the lowest rate (1.7). Fifteen counties had no infant deaths. ([Table 40](#))

Of all infant deaths in 2006, 42.3 percent were attributed to conditions originating in the perinatal period, 20.8 percent were attributed to congenital anomalies, 18.1

## Deaths (Cont.)

percent to sudden infant death syndrome and 18.8 percent to all other causes. ([Table 41](#))

For each year from 1987 to 2004 there were five or fewer maternal deaths among Kansas residents. In 2005 there were six, and in 2006 there were seven maternal deaths to Kansas residents, a rate of 1.7 per 10,000 live births. ([Figure 31](#))

The Kansas age-adjusted death rate (see Technical Notes pgs. 148-149) per 1,000 standard U.S. 2000 population was consistently below that of the U.S. from 1990-2004. ([Table 44](#), [Figure 32](#))

The state's 2006 age-adjusted death rate for males (9.3) was 36.8 percent higher than the rate of 6.8 for females. ([Table 44](#))

The average age at death of Kansas residents in 2006 was 74.0 years, a 2.1 percent increase from the average age at death of 72.5 years in 1987. ([Table 45](#))

Just over 90 percent (90.5) of all deaths in 2006 were to White Non-Hispanic residents, compared to 5.4 percent to Black Non-Hispanic residents ([Tables 47](#) and [48](#)).

Nearly 64 percent (63.7) of the White Non-Hispanic residents who died in 2006 were 75 years of age or older while only 40.3 percent of deceased Black Non-Hispanic residents and 31.8 percent of deceased Hispanic residents were from the same age group. ([Table 47](#))

The average age at death for the White Non-Hispanic population in 2006 was 75.4 years, twelve years older than that of the Black Non-Hispanic population (average age at death at 63.4 years). The average age at death for Hispanics was 54.4. ([Table 47](#))

The two leading causes of death in Kansas in 2006 (heart disease and malignant neoplasms) had average ages at death of 79.0 and 71.7 years, respectively. Alzheimer's disease, with an average age at death of 86.7 years, had the highest average age at death of any of the leading causes of death. ([Table 50](#))

The average age at death for male unintentional injury victims for 1987 and 2006 was 41.2 and 48.9 respectively, while for females the average age was 54.8 and 59.2 years respectively. For this time period, the average age at death increased 8.0 percent for female unintentional injury victims while for male unintentional injury victims it increased 18.7 percent. ([Table 50](#))

The cause-specific death rate for Alzheimer's Disease in Kansas was 30.0 deaths per 100,000 population in 2006. The rate for females (44.7) was almost three times as high as the rate for males (15.1). ([Table 50](#))

The cancer death rate for 2006 was 192.4 deaths per 100,000 population, 3.7 percent higher than the rate of 185.5 in 1987. ([Tables 50](#) and [51](#))  
In 2006, the unintentional injury death rate was 44.5 deaths per 100,000 population, 8.3 percent higher than the rate of 41.1 in 1987. ([Tables 50](#) and [51](#))

## Deaths (Cont.)

The age-adjusted death rate for the leading cause of death, heart disease, was 183.0 per 100,000 standard U.S. 2000 population. For cancer, the second leading cause of death, the age-adjusted death rate was 179.7. Together, these two causes accounted for almost fifty percent (45.5) of all Kansas resident deaths. ([Table 51](#))

Heart disease has gradually declined, as a cause of death, from 319.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 1987 to 211.0 deaths in 2006. Conversely, cancer rates steadily increased from 185.5 to 207.1 deaths per 100,000 population from 1987 to 1996, but have since declined to 192.4 in 2006 (the lowest rate recorded since 1987). ([Figure 33](#))

The third leading cause of death in 2006 was chronic lower respiratory disease (CLRD). CLRD resulted in a death rate of 54.2 deaths per 100,000 population, and was lower than the 56.8 rate in 2005, the highest recorded for this cause since it was first listed in 1979. ([Figure 33](#))

Kansas death rates from cerebrovascular disease have decreased by 18.9 percent over the last twenty years, from 66.2 in 1987 to 53.7 in 2006. ([Figure 33](#))

In 2006, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for Kansas residents 1-44 years of age. ([Figure 34](#))

For the age-group 15-24, unintentional injuries were followed by suicides and homicides as leading causes of death. Together, they accounted for 78 percent (77.6) of deaths in this age-group. ([Figure 34](#))

In 2006, cancer of the respiratory and intrathoracic organs, digestive organs and breast were the leading causes of cancer deaths in women. ([Table 53](#))

In 2006, 337 Kansas residents died due to suicide. A majority (193) of these came from three occupation groups: managerial and professional specialty (67), operators, fabricators and laborers (65), and precision production, craft and repair (61). ([Table 57](#))

Mortality in Kansas was responsible for 203,045 years of potential life lost in 2006 (See Technical Notes pg. 149). Cancer was the second leading cause of death in Kansas, but accounted for the most years of potential life lost (43,758 years). Unintentional injuries represented nearly two times the years of potential life lost among men (20,499 years) compared to women (10,965 years). ([Table 59](#), [Figure 35](#))